

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6981

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1319

FOR COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND ASST. SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP PFOR RO US

SUBJ: VISIT OF PARTY SECRETARY STEFAN ANDREI

1. AMBASSADOR BOGDAN DEPARTED FOR WASHINGTON LAST WEEK, APPARENTLY FINALLY HAVING SEEN STEFAN ANDREI. MITRAN (MFA) CALLED DCM MARCH 11 TO CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM BOGDAN IN RESPECT TO A US VISIT BY ANDREI: (A) PROBLEM REMAINS WHO WILL INVITE HIM (TOUCHED ON IN LETTER TO EUR/EE DATED FEBRUARY 25); (B) COMMITMENT NEEDED THAT SECRETARY WILL RECEIVE HIM FOR "LONG SUBSTANTIVE TALK"; (C) BEST PERIOD FOR ANDREI IN NEAR FUTURE WOULD BE MAY; (D) MAJOR TOURISTIC INTEREST WOULD BE TRIP TO CALIFORNIA. YOU WILL RECALL WE TOUCHED ON ANDREI VISIT IN MY TALKS WITH BOTH OF YOU BEFORE MY RETURN TO BUCHAREST IN DECEMBER.

2. MITRAN WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER BOGDAN INTENDED TO DISCUSS ANDREI VISIT WITH DEPARTMENT SOON AFTER HIS RETURN, BUT WAS EMPHATIC IN MAKING POINT "WE (ANDREI?) WOULD LIKE TO GET CRACKING ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR A TRIP. I SHARE THIS VIEW.

3. CENTRAL ROMANIAN PREOCCUPATION AT THE MOMENT, AND SO FAR AS I CAN SEE, MAJOR IMPEDIMENT HERE ASIDE FROM ANDREI'S PREOCCUPATION WHICH WAS PRECLUDED A VISIT TO DATE, IS QUESTION OF WHO WILL ISSUE INVITATION. ANDREI'S INFLU-
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ENCE AND PRIVILEGED POSITION AS PRESIDENT'S PRINCIPAL

ADVISOR ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS APPEARS TO US TO BE STRONGER THAN EVER. IN RECENT MONTHS TEMPO OF HIS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY INTENSE, AND EVERYWHERE HE HAS VISITED HE HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN ROLE AS PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY.

4. RECOGNIZING THE VARIOUS DIFFICULTIES A PERSONAL INVITATION FROM A SENIOR USG OFFICIAL MIGHT POSE AT THIS TIME, AS I MENTIONED IN MY LETTER I RECOMMEND INVITATION FROM THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. FROM WHAT BOGDAN TOLD ME I BELIEVE THIS WOULD MEET ANDREI'S PERSONAL EGO NEEDS AS WELL AS FULFILL THE GOR'S REQUIREMENTS THAT WE TREAT HIS VISIT AS AN EVENT OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE. I DO NOT FEEL THAT AN SFR INVITATION NEED IMPLY MUCH BEYOND A RECEPTION OR LUNCH, AND PERHAPS AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH SOME OF THE COMMITTEE OR INDIVIDUAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN AND TWO OR THREE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. INVITATION FROM HOUSE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OR FROM SPEAKER ALBERT WHO WAS HERE LAST SUMMER ARE ALSO POSSIBILITIES BUT LATTER FORMAT LESS RELEVANT TO ANDREI'S INTERESTS. IF I READ THIS SITUATION CORRECTLY THE IMPORTANT ELEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE INVITATION IS FORM, NOT SUBSTANCE. ANDREI WILL BE VERY INTERESTED IN SUBSTANCE, BUT MORE SO IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EXECUTIVE RATHER THAN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SAVE ON MFN RENEWAL AND EMIGRATION WHERE THE LEGISLATIVE ANGLE IS OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS BOTH AS TO WHETHER SFR OR OTHER INVITATION IS FEASIBLE AS WELL AS WHETHER MAY VISIT CONVENIENT. I PLAN TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH ANDREI IN NEAR FUTURE AND WOULD LIKE TO BE ARMED WITH YOUR RESPONSE BEFORE SEEING HIM.
BARNES

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